

the task. The lengthy list of testimonials speaking to his fairness and sound judgement span the political spectrum. He is respected by lawmakers, scholars, and lawyers of every legal persuasion and political philosophy. And on a personal note, I can attest to the fact that his brilliance is matched by his kindness. His many achievements have never gone to his head. He has always stayed humble and treated everyone with respect.

It is for these reasons and many more that I was honored to vote for the President's nominee to serve as the next Attorney General of the United States, Judge Merrick Garland.

CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL STANLEY REGAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, now is the time to take substantive action to combat climate change, address environmental justice, and help clean up the Chesapeake Bay. To help address these critical issues, President Biden nominated Michael Regan to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Michael Regan most recently served as secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. During that time, Mr. Regan led the implementation of North Carolina's Executive Order 80, a landmark effort to address climate change's impact and transition the State's energy economy. Mr. Regan also created North Carolina's first Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board to address societal disparities exacerbated by environmental issues during his tenure as secretary.

Mr. Regan has a strong record of bipartisanship, having previously served at the EPA under both Democratic and Republican Presidents. He is committed to rebuilding EPA's Federal workforce, which saw record departures during the Trump administration. During the Trump administration, we saw the EPA workforce shrink to levels not seen since the Reagan administration, and those who resigned or retired include some of the Agency's most experienced scientific veterans, as well as young environmental experts who traditionally would have replaced them, causing a brain drain at the EPA. Maryland is home to many of those Federal employees, and I look forward to working with Mr. Regan to rebuild the civil servant backbone of the EPA.

One of EPA's most critical roles for the State of Maryland is its role in the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay. We are at a very critical junction in the implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and our mutual goal of clean water in the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. On December 29, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load—TMDL—a historic and comprehensive agreement that includes accountability features to re-

store clean water in the seven jurisdictions within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The agreement is a national and indeed international model for watershed restoration. It sets limits for pollution that equate to a 25-percent reduction in nitrogen, 24-percent reduction in phosphorous, and 20-percent reduction in sediment. As the Bay TMDL states, "The TMDL is designed to ensure that all pollution control measures needed to fully restore the Bay and its tidal rivers are in place by 2025[.]"

I look forward to working with Mr. Regan to make sure that EPA uses every tool available to them, including enforcement measures when necessary, to make sure that all jurisdictions are on track for our mutual goal of clean water in the Chesapeake Bay by 2025.

Furthermore, I am pleased that Mr. Regan has indicated that he will reconstituting the position of Senior Advisor to the Administrator of the EPA for the Chesapeake Bay.

I believe that Michael Regan is a strong choice to lead us into a new era at the EPA. For these reasons, I supported Michael Regan's nomination as the Administrator of the EPA.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS DAVIES

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Dennis Davies of Lewis and Clark County for his compassion and dedication to his community during the pandemic. While schools were closed to in-person instruction, Dennis saw that students needed a place to do their work at home. He rose to the occasion and began building desks for young Montanans enrolled in virtual school.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Dennis was inspired by a TV segment that profiled a teacher from Iowa who made desks for students and thought he could do the same for Montana's students.

At first, he paid desk supply expenses out of his own pocket. After the community recognized the service he was providing, donations began rolling in. Now, with the assistance of donated supplies and funds, he is able to expand his operation and build even more desks for kids. Dennis works alongside many Montanans who volunteer their time to help him build and deliver desks, and he hopes to provide 2,000 desks to students across the State. Though that amount may be daunting, he is excited to help do his part to help Montana families get through the pandemic.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Dennis for his compassion and dedication to the people of Lewis and Clark County in this trying time. His kindness and charitable approach to work serves as an inspiration to all Montanans. •

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:54 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1. An act to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 842. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes.

At 4:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 579. An act to make a technical correction to the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 8. An act to require a background check for every firearm sale.

H.R. 1446. An act to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 842. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

*Brian P. McKeon, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 697. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 698. A bill to establish a pilot program through which the Institute of Museum and Library Services shall allocate funds to States for the provision of internet-connected devices to libraries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 699. A bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 700. A bill to establish a portal and database to receive and maintain information regarding blocked railroad-highway grade crossings and to require the Secretary of Transportation to evaluate the requirements of the railway-highway crossings program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 701. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide equal coverage of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests for allergies under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 702. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of State firearm ownership databases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 703. A bill to reduce the excessive appreciation of United States residential real estate due to foreign purchases; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 704. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to improve the resiliency of the power grid to natural disasters and reduce the risk of wildfires caused by power lines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 705. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 with respect to future interstate designa-

tions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. BURR):

S. 706. A bill to modify a provision relating to adjustments of certain State apportionments for Federal highway programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 707. A bill to require a certain percentage of natural gas and crude oil exports be transported on United States-built and United States-flag vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 708. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a task force to advise the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use on a national strategy for preventing mental health and substance use crises during a public health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 709. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 710. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to evaluate the activities of sister city partnerships operating within the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 711. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants to organizations for the provision of transition assistance to members and former members of the Armed Forces who are separated, retired, or discharged from the Armed Forces, and spouses of such members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 712. A bill to amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to provide for immediate eligibility for former foster youth under Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 713. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to temporarily suspend increased line speeds at meat and poultry establishments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. REED):

S. 714. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for current year inclusion of net CFC tested income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 715. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to require the submission of certain reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 716. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to provide for

legal reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 717. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 718. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to reform agency process requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 719. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to provide for project delivery programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 720. A bill to encourage States to permit members of the Armed Forces who are outside of the State under orders to renew a permit to carry a concealed firearm through the mail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 721. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 722. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish a program to provide grants and loan guarantees to improve the energy efficiency of publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 723. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. LUJAN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 724. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 725. A bill to end offshore corporate tax avoidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 726. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for use as a national cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 727. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.